



# ***YOURLIFE*** Money Management for Teens

**FACILITATOR'S GUIDE**

## Welcome

Thanks for signing up for **YourLife: Money Management for Teens**. Whether you're taking this study as a part of a youth group, school assignment, or because your parent or other relative has asked you to do so, we're glad you're here!

You probably already know how important money is in the world. You can hardly do anything without it, and it sure seems as if those who have more are in better shape than those who don't. But did you know that God has a lot to say about money? He does! In fact, it is one of the most talked about topics in Scripture with over 2300 verses referring to money and possessions! With that much subject matter, it's probably good to know a little about what He has to say. That's where this study will help.

Whatever our future goals are with money, whether to make a lot, give a lot away, or both, we know you likely would want to honor God with it. That's why it's important to know what He has to say. It'd be hard to honor Him without His direction! Think of it like a game of follow the leader without a leader. There would be no direction or expectations of what you need to do to win. It's not even a game anymore. God's directions outline the expectations needed to put Him first in everything you do.

So, we hope this study will be the beginning, or maybe even a continuation of what you learn about God's wisdom on finance. You're going to learn about what His role is (and your role), get an introduction on how to budget, learn what debt is, learn how to be honest with your money, and learn how to set goals for your future! We hope this course is an opportunity to learn how to be successful with money in the eyes of God. Following His principles will bring financial freedom in your life.

If at any point you have any questions, please reach out to your youth leaders, teachers, parents, or Crown. You can reach us at [customercare@crowns.org](mailto:customercare@crowns.org) or calling 1.800.722.1976. We'd love to hear from you!

### FACILITATOR'S NOTES



"Look for this icon throughout the document for further facilitator instruction and guidance."

Access additional resources at <https://www.crown.org/yourlife> and see notes throughout this book.



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*"Look for this icon throughout the document for further facilitator instruction and guidance."*

## YOURLIFE FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

### Welcome:

We are so thankful that you have chosen to lead Crown's YourLife Teen Stewardship Study. We are excited about your passion to equip the next generation with tools for the future in the areas of Career/Identity, Financial, and Gospel Stewardship. God has used the principles you are about to teach in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have used Crown's financial studies or career services.

We've found that this study benefits participants most when they do the following:

- 1. Attend the group meeting.** Being at every group meeting to watch the video and be a part of the discussion is beneficial for the participant. The group meetings are designed to introduce the content conversationally so that the students can begin to feel comfortable with certain topics.
- 2. \*Complete the daily lessons.** The daily lessons give the students the opportunity to take a closer look at the content that was introduced during the group meeting. Completing these lessons are important for the students to gain a solid grasp on the content that they are learning.  
\*You may choose to do these as a group together, or perhaps in a small group breakout if you don't think your students will complete homework on their own. That is just fine - the point is that they review the daily lesson material to deepen their understanding.
- 3. Complete the Action Steps.** Each lesson is combined with an action step. When the action steps are completed, the student will be better equipped in that area of stewardship. Many of the action steps are very practical and easy to complete, so be sure to emphasize their importance!

### Purpose:

The purpose of YourLife is to teach teenagers foundational principles of managing their money, career and identity, and following the Gospel plan as God has intended.

### Financial Policy:

- Crown Financial Ministries does not endorse, recommend, or sell any financial investments. No one may use their affiliation with Crown to promote or influence the sale of any financial products or services. Please report any violation of this policy to us at [shop.crown.org/contact](mailto:shop.crown.org/contact).
- Crown's YourLife Study does not give specific investment advice. No one may use his or her affiliation with Crown to give specific investment advice.
- There are several organizations that train financial planners to counsel from a biblical perspective. To learn more about these organizations, please contact Crown's Customer Care team ([customercare@crown.org](mailto:customercare@crown.org) or 800-722-1976).

- This study is affordably priced because we do not want cost to be an obstacle to people who desire to participate. If you find the study valuable and want to help make it available to others, visit [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org) to make a tax-deductible gift to Crown Financial Ministries.

### **Introduction to YourLife:**

YourLife is designed to teach students the main principles of three areas of stewardship: Financial Stewardship, Career and Identity Stewardship, and Gospel Stewardship. This is accomplished through a series of videos and lessons that cover a wide range of topics within the three areas of stewardship.

Each of the three units of stewardship is broken up into five sessions. These five sessions can be done either as a five-week study or as a five-session workshop. There is a slight variation in how the program is done based on whether it is done as a study or as a workshop.

### **Format of the Program – 5-week Study:**

Here is how the program is broken up when it is taught as a multi-week study:

- 1 Group meeting at the beginning of each topic to watch and discuss the material in the video.
- 5 Daily Lessons that reinforce the content that is introduced in the videos.
- 5 Action Steps that correspond with each Daily Lesson.

The video will be viewed whenever the group regularly meets, and the Daily Lessons and Action Steps will be completed throughout the week on the student's own time.

### **Format of the Program – Workshop:**

Here is how the program is broken up when it is given in a workshop setting:

- 5 Video Sessions to be watched during the workshop.
- Essential Action Steps based on the video content for that week.

Because there will not be time to look at each of the Daily Lessons and Action Steps, only essential content and action steps will be included.

### **How to Conduct a Session:**

Regardless of whether you are doing this program as a multi-week Study or a Workshop, the way that you conduct a session is essential to the success of the students.

The videos are broken up into three sections, with each section ending with a question for the group to discuss. When the video arrives at a question, pause it to allow the students some time to answer the questions on their own (preferably in smaller groups of 4-5). After everyone has had a chance to share, watch the next section of the video. Repeat this process until the end of the video.

When the video has concluded, take some time to ask any take some time to ask the students any additional questions to your students. Remember – you are in charge of the conversation, and you can guide it wherever you think is right for your group.

**To recap, here is a brief order of events during a session:**

1. Pray before the start of the video for the session.
2. Discuss the lessons that they did over the week. Ask them what they learned that stood out to them.
3. If you are doing this program as a multi-week study, confirm that the Action Steps from the prior week have been completed.
4. Watch the video, pausing it when it is necessary.
5. At the conclusion of the video, discuss additional questions with the students.
6. Share any prayer requests.
7. Pray in conclusion.

**Leader Responsibilities:**

1. Unconditionally love and encourage the participants in the group. People are more receptive to spiritual truth when they have been loved. People want to know how much you care before they care how much you know.
2. Hold the participants in the group accountable to:
  - a. Start and finish on time.
  - b. Participate and share experiences.
  - c. Honor one another by being concise.
3. Be a model of faithfulness. Leaders must be faithful to arrive early, pray consistently for the participants, and be prepared in advance.

**Discussion Group Dynamics**

There are two common dangers to avoid with discussion groups. The first is when the leader does all or most of the talking. This sometimes happens when a leader feels it is his or her responsibility to fill “dead air” during a discussion. Do your best to resist this temptation! Group dynamics work much better when all group members are taking part in the discussions. In some cases, it’s not the leader, but a particularly outspoken group member who dominates the conversation. One of the leader’s chief responsibilities is to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to get in on the discussion. For this reason, it may be necessary to steer the conversation in such a way that everyone has a chance to participate by asking questions like, “Has everyone shared their insights for this question?”

The second discussion group danger to avoid is the loss of control. Some groups have such great camaraderie that individual conversations spring up naturally among group members during group discussion time. Or, the group discussion as a whole ends up off-topic and down a rabbit trail, so to speak. As the leader, it's your responsibility to help the group's discussion stay on track. Manage the group politely by saying something like, "We can talk about that after class. Let's honor everyone's time by completing this session's discussion."

It has been our observation over years of training leaders for discussion groups that the best leaders are those who talk the least, who draw out responses from all participants in the group, and who demonstrate a compassionate commitment to serve the needs of the students.

**Parent Resources:**

For each lesson of the study, we have put together [a set of emails](#) that you may wish to send to parents providing the information covered during that lesson. Also included are conversation-starter suggestions that parents can ask their teenager. We recommend the parent companion guide to this study, *Raising GenZ: Stewardship Lessons for Teens*. This resource follows along with the weekly lessons in *YourLife* and gives parents suggested action steps in conversation or guidance with their student.



 CROWN

***YOUR*LIFE**

**Week 1:  
God's Role & Our Role**





# Week 1 : God's Role and Our Role

## Video

1. How do you typically spend money?

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2. If you had \$100 in your hand right now, what would you do with it?

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3. Have you ever considered yourself a financial manager, and what might stewardship look like in your life?

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## Day 1: Introduction

Most of the tests that you have taken in life are probably for school. Maybe you've taken a test to get your driver's license, or perhaps you've taken a standardized test in some form or another. These tests are used to measure how much you do and do not know about a certain subject or topic. On these tests, there are both right and wrong answers. At the end of the test, you are given a grade based on how well you did.

Many people do not mind taking tests and view them as opportunities to showcase what they know. Some think about tests like an athlete may think about a game that they are about to play, or how an actor or actress may think about a play they are about to perform. However, not everyone shares this same attitude towards taking tests. To many, tests are nerve-racking and stressful, and some feel like their intelligence is not accurately shown by their test scores.

Regardless of how you feel about tests, there is an important thing you need to learn about them: there are tests in life that are much different than any kind of academic test you have ever taken; these life tests are often a bit more complex, and do not have specific right and wrong answers.

**One of the most important tests we will ever face is about how we handle our money.**

Learning how to handle our finances wisely can be a hard thing to do and often takes time. There are many different things (advertisements, friends, etc.) that influence how people handle their money. These influences can be both positive and negative at times. How should we know which influences to pay attention to and which to avoid?

The best tool we have for passing God’s money test is the Bible! Did you know that there are more than 2,300 verses in the Bible about handling money? If that seems like a lot, that’s because it is! Handling money is important, even in the Bible. Jesus actually talked more about money than almost anything else. Since handling money is so important to God, shouldn’t it be important to us?

Welcome to the Financial Stewardship Unit of our three-part stewardship program for teens! Throughout the rest of this unit, we will be looking at how God views money, how to handle money, and how to start budgeting for your future!

**ACTION STEP:**

As you begin this stewardship series, we want you to evaluate yourself so that you have a better understanding of how you think about finances right now. How confident are you right now with how to handle your finances?

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# ***COMMITMENT FORM***

Thanks for signing up for YourLife: Finding Success Through Stewardship. There are many reasons you might have signed up for this course, but no matter what, we're glad you did. Over the next few weeks, you will learn ways to be successful with your money through following God's word in the biblical financial principles.

In this study we will cover financial responsibilities, giving, saving, debt, budgeting and spending with integrity, honesty, seeking counsel, and more. We will discuss both the principle and the practical elements of godly finances. Our hope is that this will be the beginning (or continuation) of a lifelong journey of honoring God with your money.

Each week, we will meet to learn about the major theme for the lesson and dive into the topic. We ask that each day of the week, you will take the time to complete the 10-15 minutes lesson provided. Being daily in the course will enable you to take in each lesson thoroughly and create life-long value for what you are learning, so participating in this course means you're committing to increasing your biblical knowledge in this area.

We encourage you to submit any pre-conceived ideas or lessons you've learned about money to the Lord and come with an open mind and open heart to understand what God has to say about money. Did you know there's over 2300 verses in the Bible about money and possessions? There's clearly a lot for us to learn. Will you commit yourself to this study and to your fellow students learning with you? Will you pray for them and yourself daily as you seek God's heart and wisdom in this area?

If so, please sign your name below as your commitment to this program and those going through it with you.

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Your name

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Date

## Day 2: God & Money - Part 1

The world has a very particular view about what money is and how it should be handled. It is the world's view that the money you make is money you earned. Therefore, you own that money and have complete authority of it. You can choose what you want to do with the money you have earned, because it's yours. Therefore, the world tells you to earn as much as you can and spend it in whatever way pleases you.

Even though this way of earning and handling money may sound normal, it's actually not how God intends us to be with our money. The world says whatever we earn is what we own. However, what the Bible teaches us is a bit different. In Deuteronomy 10:14, we read "to the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it" (NIV). Did you catch that? **Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God.** Including our money! God owns our money before we earn it, while we have it, and even after we've used it. Instead of owning our money, the Bible teaches that we are actually stewarding God's money. We will talk a bit more about what this means in a few lessons. For now, here is a short story in the Bible that reveals God owns and has oversight over all resources:

*"Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come close to me.' When they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt? And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt."*

(Genesis 45:4-8 NIV)





## Day 3: God & Money - Part 2

It is difficult to give up control of something as significant as money in our lives. Money is all around us and we use it almost every day. Because of this, it is tempting to not give God complete control over our finances. It is not easy to give up ownership of something we value. However, there is a certain characteristic of God that helps us in the process of realizing Him as the owner of our finances.

This characteristic of God that can bring us comfort in giving up ownership of our finances to Him is that He was, is, and will be a faithful provider (Deuteronomy 7:9). In order to trust that God will provide for all of our needs, including our financial ones, we must trust that He will be faithful as He has been in the past.

There are many points in the Bible where God provides faithfully for those in need. One of the first examples of this is when He provides manna (food) to the Israelites as they are wandering in the wilderness. The Israelites were hungry and tired, and the Lord provided for their needs every day! In the New Testament (Matthew 14:13-21, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14), God also provides food for thousands of people who are hungry while they are listening to Jesus speak. And in Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells us to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [food, drink, clothing] will be given to you as well” (NIV). God has been a faithful provider in the past, and He will continue to be one today and for the rest of time!

What does it mean to have faith in God as our provider? In Hebrews 11:1, we are told that “faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (NIV). In trusting God as our provider, we have the assurance that He will supply us with what we need when we need it.

### **ACTION STEP:**

It is important to be aware of where your money is coming from and where it is going.

Read the instructions and fill out “Your Weekly Income & Spending Tracker” worksheet.

[Download Your Weekly Income & Spending Tracker](#)

# RECORDING YOUR INCOME & SPENDING

It is important to be aware of where your money is coming from and where it is going.

Throughout the next few weeks in this program (and beyond), our hope is that you will keep an earning (income)\* and spending (expenditures) journal to track where you get your money and what you are doing with it. You'll want to have one of these for each week of the month. Start a new sheet each week.

\*So, you don't have an income because you don't have a job? Track your gift money from Christmas or your birthday as well as any allowance you earn or extra cash from doing chores around the house. It could also be helpful to track that burger (or anything else) your Mom or Dad bought you as an expense so you can start to become more aware of what life costs (and their generosity toward you).

## YOUR WEEKLY INCOME & SPENDING EXAMPLE

Description	Amounts	Totals for the Week
Income	$2.00 + 1.50 + 7.00 + 3.00$	13.50
Giving	$1.50 + 1.00$	2.50
Food	2.00	2.00
School/Lessons	0	0
Clothing	0	0
Grooming	2.50	2.50
Transportation	.50	.50
Sports	0	0
Entertainment	3.00	3.00
Gifts	0	0
Other:	0	0
Other:	0	0



# RECORDING YOUR INCOME & SPENDING

YOUR WEEKLY INCOME & SPENDING		
Description	Amounts	Totals for the Week
Income		
Giving		
Food		
School/Lessons		
Clothing		
Grooming		
Transportation		
Sports		
Entertainment		
Gifts		
Other:		
Other:		



## Day 4: Stewardship Part 1

So far, we have looked into God's role in our finances. We have seen that God is both the owner and provider of all that we have. In return, we too have been given a responsibility in how we handle our money. The best word to describe our role in managing money is "steward".

What does it mean to steward something? To be a steward means to "manage or look after" something, particularly the property or belongings of someone else. Our role in handling money is to be managers of what we are given from God. God has entrusted us with His possessions with hopes that we will take care of what we have been given.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (NIV). When we take a deeper look into this verse, we can learn a little bit about what it means to steward our finances. In order to steward our money in the way that God desires us to, **we must align our heart and our money with God**. A steward surrenders all that they have to God and rejects the temptation to love money and possessions. Instead, they choose to live in accordance with what God has planned. It is both a heart and mind shift to recognize that you are only a **manager**, not an **owner**, of all that you have.

Thankfully, God has given us some guidelines for us to do good jobs as stewards. Actually, our role as stewards has a very simple foundation. In 1 Corinthians 4:2, we are told that "it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (ESV). God will give you the wisdom you need to steward well. You are required, as seen in this verse, to be faithful to Him.

In the next lesson, we will further explore what it means to be faithful with what we have been given. In the meantime, pray for the wisdom to better understand how God desires you to steward your finances and all that you have!

### **ACTION STEP:**

Committing to be a steward of your finances for the rest of your life is a pretty big deal that requires a lot from you. What are some reasons you may be hesitant to do this (if any)?

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## Day 5: Stewardship Part 2

In order to steward what we have been given well; we must be faithful with what God has given us. Here are some guidelines to follow in order to be a faithful steward:

### **Guideline #1: Be faithful no matter how much—or how little—you have.**

Let's take a look at the parable that Jesus tells in Matthew 25 about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus tells the beginning of the story like this: "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last" (Matthew 25:14-15 NLT). When the man came back from his trip, the men who received the five bags and the two bags had multiplied their master's money and were rewarded. However, the man who only received one bag did not multiply it, and his master criticized him and cast him away. As seen in this story, the Lord requires us to be faithful with what we have been given, no matter what the amount is. The first part of being a good steward is being faithful with whatever amount you have been given.

### **Guideline #2: Be faithful with all you have.**

At some point, you may have heard that Christians should be generous with their finances. We will take a closer look at giving in a later lesson, but I want to highlight the fact that being a faithful steward does not start and end with giving. While we should be generous with some of what we have, we need to be faithful with **everything** that we have. God does not just care about the money that you give away... he cares about it all! In the next few sections, we will take a closer look at how to be faithful stewards of all that we have!

### **ACTION STEP:**

On the following pages or by [downloading the worksheet](#), make a list of some of the resources you have (this can include your money, clothing, gadgets, etc.) and how you can steward them in a way that glorifies God.



# STEWARDSHIP OF POSSESSIONS



Write down your possessions and how you can steward it well

EXAMPLE	
POSSESSION THAT YOU HAVE:	HOW YOU CAN STEWARD IT WELL:
<i>Cell Phone</i>	<i>Use it to communicate and connect with others but not use it obsessively</i>
<i>Car</i>	<i>Take good care of the vehicle, drive wisely</i>
<i>Clothes</i>	<i>Keep what I wear, give or sell what I don't. Put proceeds toward savings or an act of generosity.</i>



# STEWARDSHIP OF POSSESSIONS

Write down your possessions and how you can steward it well

POSSESSION THAT YOU HAVE:	HOW YOU CAN STEWARD IT WELL:





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# YOURLIFE

**Week 2:  
Budgeting - Part 1**

## Week 2: Budgeting – Part 1

### Video

1. Have you ever tried to create a budget? If so, how did it go?

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2. Have you ever given something away to someone else? If so, what was it?

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3. If you started saving money right now, what would you be saving for?

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### Day 1: Intro to Budgeting

Did you know that having enough money often has more to do with how you manage your money than with how much you earn? This is the main reason why many people who make a good amount of money still have financial troubles. When people make more money, there is a tendency to spend more money. When this happens, no amount of money will ever feel like “enough,” and there will always be more money to make.

This is a very dangerous trap to fall into and should be avoided at all costs. In this section of the program, you will be introduced to one of the most helpful tools in managing your money: careful budgeting. It is very helpful not only to keep track of the money you are earning but also to plan where that money will go in the near and distant future!



There is a bit of Old Testament wisdom that helps us understand the importance of keeping track of our money. King Solomon writes this: “Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds” (Proverbs 27:23 NIV). Odds are, you probably aren’t a shepherd who needs to take care of your flock (even though that would be cool if you are). However, this verse is about much more than just sheep and goats. King Solomon advises people to “know the condition of [their] flocks;” in the same way, we should know the condition of our finances. One of the very best ways to know the condition of your finances (or your flocks) is through careful budgeting!

Take this wisdom to heart—it is important to God that you manage your money well. Throughout the rest of this section and the next, we will be taking a closer look at some different practices to help you budget your money in a way that brings honor to God.

### **ACTION STEP:**

Update your weekly income and spending journal ([download form again here](#))! This is a good first step in knowing the condition of your finances as you work towards building a healthy budget.



### **FACILITATOR’S NOTE:**

Check in the Appendix for the “[Your Financial Statement](#)” form. This could be a helpful supplement to this lesson to help your students know the conditions of their financial situation even at this stage of life! You may also [download this form here](#).

## Day 2: Giving Part 1

There are many people who grow up without understanding the importance of giving to the church. Especially when they are young, they think that any money that they give would not be enough to have a significant impact on the church. Because they think their gift would not be significant, they do not think it is important to give their money. However, this mentality about giving is wrong. The reason that Christians are called to be generous to churches and other ministries is not just for those organizations to operate. Although this is a benefit of giving, the main reason that God desires Christians to be generous with their finances is far beyond just providing financial support for others.

Let's take a look at a story in the Gospel of Luke:

“While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. ‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus said, ‘this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.’”

(Luke 21:1-4 NLT)

In this story, Jesus reveals two different approaches towards giving. The first approach, as seen by the way the rich people give, is giving what you have left over once you have taken care of other things you needed to pay for. The second approach, as demonstrated by the poor widow, is quite different. Instead of giving what she has leftover, the widow makes giving her top financial priority. In doing so, she gave all that she had, even though the amount was small compared to what the others gave. And how does Jesus respond to this? By telling his disciples that she actually gave more than the others did!

The most important aspect of giving is not the financial support that you are giving to a church or a ministry. Instead, the most important aspect of giving has to do with how you give it. **Giving is less about the money you give and more about the motivation in your heart for giving.**



The reason giving is the first lesson in budgeting is because we advise that you make giving a top priority with your finances. There will be times when there are other things you would rather spend your money on, and it will be tempting to pass on giving. However, we advise prioritizing giving, regardless of whether your gift is big or small! We will take a closer look at why we advise this in the next lesson.

**ACTION STEP:**

We invite you to commit to making giving a priority, no matter what the rest of your budget looks like. Remember, it is not the amount that makes the gift significant, but rather the attitude of your heart as you give that matters! Let the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:7 be a reminder of this:

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (NIV)

Write down what you would like to give and by when you will do it. Making specific plans and setting a deadline makes it much more likely that you’ll complete it.

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## Day 3: Giving Part 2

In the last lesson, we looked at the importance of making giving a priority, regardless of whether our gifts are big or small. Why should giving be a priority in our financial life? What is there to gain from it, if anything? Let's take a look at three different reasons to give.

### 1. You grow closer to God.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus reveals a key truth that informs how we think about our finances: "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be" (NLT). The way we handle our money is a reflection of what we value in our hearts. Therefore, when we give to God, our hearts grow to know the heart of the Lord better and to be more receptive to what He has in store for us.

### 2. You grow more like Christ.

Giving is not God's way of raising money; it is God's way of raising people to be more like His Son. Christ gave himself to us unselfishly as an act of love. In the same way, we can grow to be more like Christ through our own acts of unselfish giving.

### 3. Other gains

Let's get this clear: Scripture does not promise that we will receive material increase (more money) as a result of giving. You should not give with the expectation that you will receive a material blessing in return. In other words, if I give generously, God will provide a way for me to get that new jacket I've been wanting. Maybe ... but maybe not. Take a look at what Proverbs 11:25 says: "The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed" (NLT).

When we are generous with what we have, we not only help others but we ourselves will also feel a sense of deep satisfaction and fulfillment.

Two questions that are often asked concerning giving are how much to give as well as where to give. While the Bible doesn't specify a certain amount to give, we are told to be generous first with our money before anything else. "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops" (Proverbs 3:9 NIV). With this being said, we suggest that you give the first 10% of what you earn. If you are wondering, the practice of giving 10% originates in Genesis 14! Abraham gives Melchizedek, a priest of God, "a tenth of all the goods that he had recovered" (Genesis 14:20 NLT).

**ACTION STEP:**

Even though we haven't created your budget yet, it is never too early to practice generosity. If you have a regular source of income and have not been in the habit of tithing, prepare to give your first tithe to your church this coming weekend. If you do not have a regular source of income, look for a way to bless someone with something through an act of generosity.

- Do you have clothes in good condition you could give to a local mission or thrift store?
- Do you have something that could be more useful to someone else?

And even if you feel that you do not have material items to share, you have time, a personality, and abilities that can bless the people around you!

What's one way you will be generous to help someone this week?

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## Day 4: Saving Part 1

In the previous two lessons, we took a close look at giving as one important practice in managing our money carefully as Christians. However, how we handle the rest of our finances is just as important as the money we give. While we are asked to be generous through giving, we are also called to be good stewards of whatever money is left over after giving. With this in mind, let's take a look at a different practice that is also important when trying to be a good steward of your money: saving!

There are a variety of different habits that people have when it comes to spending and saving money. For some, saving money seems natural, and it is something that is easy for them to do on a consistent basis. This is not true for everyone though! For others, saving money is a very difficult habit to maintain, and they tend to spend their money more often than they save it. The temptation to spend as opposed to save is often great, especially when no specific savings goals have been established.

In the Bible, there are many passages that have to do with saving. One such story occurs in Genesis 41, in the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream. God gives Pharaoh two dreams, both of which Joseph is able to interpret. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean this: there will be seven years of abundance in Egypt, followed by seven years of famine. And, as predicted, after the seven years of abundance came to an end, the entire world was struck by famine. However, because Joseph was prepared for this, he was diligent to save during the years of abundance and was able to provide food for both Egypt and the surrounding countries during the famine!

Joseph listened to the Lord and prepared well by saving for the future. He sacrificed short-term comfort in order to meet some long-term needs. Because Joseph listened to the Lord, God was able to save numerous lives through Joseph!

As we see in this story, saving can take a huge burden off of both you and others in the long run. Saving today can have a huge impact on your future!

### **ACTION STEP**

What you should be saving for may not be as clear to you as it was to Joseph in this story. However, it is good to start thinking about things that you may need to be saving for in your future. Answer the following question and then read and fill out the form below. If you'd like a separate copy, you may [download it here](#).

What are some things in your future that you may be saving for?

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# **YOUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT AND GOALS**



If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to open a Savings Account. The earlier you start, the more you can save!"

Contact different financial institutions (banks, credit unions, or stock brokers) to determine the following:

<b>What is the minimum amount needed to open a savings account?</b>
<b>Are there any fees (monthly or recurring) the bank charges for the account?</b>
<b>What rate of interest do they pay on the money you have deposited?</b>
<b>Are the deposits insured?</b>
<b>What should you bring when you open the savings account (items such as personal identification, your social security number, etc.)?</b>

### Establish Your Savings Goals

After you have opened your account, establish the habit of regularly depositing a certain amount of savings into the account—**and watch the balance in your account increase as it compounds!** Write down your short and long term savings goals here and post this where you'll see it regularly to keep you motivated toward your goals.

#### Example Savings Goals:

1. *Save to buy a used car for cash.*

2. *Save to buy a surfboard.*

3. *Save for college.*

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#### My Savings Goals:

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## Day 5: Saving Part 2

Money in a savings account is like a spare tire in the trunk of your car—it's there for you when you run over a nail and get a flat. Saving money helps keep you on track with your financial plan when the unexpected happens, and it's a key to maintaining stability in life.

There is an unlikely hero in the Bible that is praised for saving up and stability: the ant! "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer, and gathers its food at harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8 NIV).

While the ant is also an excellent example of hard work, the truly impressive thing about the ant is its ability to store up for the winter. God has given them the instinct to know when winter is coming, so they cannot afford to eat everything that they have in the moment. They must store some food for a time when food will be scarce.

In your own life, predicting scarcity in your future may be difficult. Because of this, it is important to be prepared for whatever may come your way. The sooner you start saving, the better! Even if you only save small amounts at a time, developing a habit of saving will allow you to better position yourself to serve God with both your money and your time!

### ACTION STEP

We've put together a list of tips for how to save money (below). Review them and see which ones you could use in your life. Then, pick one and start to incorporate it in your life this week. Next, read or [download](#) the following "Do you want to save some money?" form and fill out the savings ideas.

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## Saving Tips Sheet

Here are some tips for how to save your money!

1. **Save before you spend**

When you do this, you are putting a priority on saving and will still have money to spend!

2. **Use cash only**

It's been proven over and over that using cash to pay for things will help you spend less. Try using only cash when buying groceries, eating out, and all other shopping.

3. **Save every \$5**

Once you are on your all-cash budget, save every single \$5 bill you touch. One woman did this for 12 years and saved \$36,000.

4. **Make your own coffee**

A \$5 drink at Starbucks every day for a year will cost you \$1,825. Make it at home or skip it altogether.

5. **Watch your subscriptions**

Your various subscriptions and memberships add up over time. Take stock of what you are paying for and get rid of unused subscriptions.

6. **Buy generic**

Think about buying generic brand items instead of the name-brand ones. These products work just as well and will cost you less.

7. **Patience**

Wait 30 days before making any major purchases! This will allow you time to search for any bargains on the product.



# ***HEY! DO YOU WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY?***

Review the following suggestions and then write down at least three ways you think you can save money by spending more wisely.

## **1. Think Yearly**

“When you look at spending on a yearly basis, it gives you a much better idea of the real cost. If you eat lunch out every day and spend \$3 for each meal, it does not seem like much money, but this adds up to \$1,050 a year! There are many ways you can reduce spending once you understand the full cost.

## **2. Food**

- If possible, bring your lunch to work or school. This is a good way to save on the cost of lunch and also eat nutritious meals.
- It costs about 80% more to have a comparable meal at a fast-food restaurant than at home.
- When eating out, drink water for your beverage and have dessert at home.
- Review your consumption habits. Junk food and soft drinks are expensive and unhealthy.

## **3. Transportation**

- Buy a used automobile to save the expense of new car depreciation. (Depreciation is the value a car loses as it gets older).
- If you have a car, you can save money by running errands in fewer trips. Walk, bike, car pool, or use the bus or train where available. The less you drive, the less you spend.

## **4. Clothing**

- Designer clothing is very expensive—avoid buying it! Also avoid fad clothing that is only going to be worn for a short period of time. If you want to buy something in current fashion, try consignment stores or places like TJ Maxx, Marshalls, or Ross that sell name brand clothing for less! You might also find some good deals online in a social media marketplace.
- Buy clothing out of season. For example, winter clothing will be on sale during the spring.

### 5. Recreation

- Learn to enjoy inexpensive hobbies and sports, like hiking, time with friends, skateboarding, books from the library, and pick-up basketball games. Try not to confuse shopping with fun.
- All pets cost money. Limit pets to those you really enjoy and can afford.

### 6. Miscellaneous

- If you have a cell phone, be careful not to go over your data plan. Think carefully before you look something up when you're not on wifi so that you can avoid overage fees.
- When you want to buy something, look for a coupon or watch for sales. Compare prices online before buying something in a store or always ask the cashier if there are any sales, promotions, or coupons you can take advantage of today. You'll be surprised how often they'll say yes and lower your price.

### "HOW TO SAVE MONEY" IDEAS:

1. *Stop buying soft drinks at the convenience store every day after school.*  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. *Reduce the number of apps I buy, music I download, or subscriptions I pay for.*  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. *Don't buy expensive "name-brand" clothing or get them from a direct manufacturer store like TJ Maxx or Ross.*  
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4. *Find activities to enjoy rather than shopping or seeing movies.*  
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### MY "HOW TO SAVE MONEY" IDEAS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
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# YOURLIFE

## Week 3: Budgeting - Part 2



## Week 3: Budgeting – Part 2

### Video

1. What do you know about debt?

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2. How do you feel about borrowing money?

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3. What concerns you most about debt?

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### Day 1: Discipline and Spending

As we continue to look at how to create a budget, it's time to take a quick pause to highlight an important aspect of budgeting. Regardless of how good your budget may be, all of your effort to put it together will be worthless unless you have the discipline to maintain it! Being disciplined with your finances, especially with your spending, is essential if you want to live a sound financial life.

Being disciplined about keeping your budget can be difficult at times. Hebrews 12:11 shows us that "no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (NLT). Having the discipline to stick with the budget that you have set for yourself will take great determination. You will likely be tempted to spend money on things that you don't really need nor that you have room for in your budget. However, as seen in Hebrews, there is a rich harvest that comes as a result of maintaining discipline in different areas of our lives.



Discipline in your budget begins with creating a realistic plan for how you are going to spend your money. We will look at a step-by-step process to create a budget in a later lesson. So far, we have looked at the importance of including the practices of giving and saving into your budget. However, these practices only take up a small amount of your budget. Let's take a look at a short guideline that is helpful to reference for how to budget your finances:

1. **Give** 10% or more to God's Kingdom.
2. **Save** 10% - Pay yourself.
3. **Spend** 80% - Pay everyone else.

This is a very broad guideline, but it is a good overview of how you should view your budget. You are also free to give and save more than we advise! These numbers are just for you to use as baseline references. As you continue to learn about and work with budgets for the rest of your life, keep this guideline in mind to refer to.

### **ACTION STEP**

Make sure you keep updating your [income and spending tracker](#)! This will be very helpful to have in a few lessons when you actually create a budget! Remember, even if you do not have a job bringing in income, your parents or guardian are spending money on you daily. You can track how much they spend on each meal, the clothes they buy you, or the entertainment purchases you enjoy. This will help make you more aware of expenses you cost.

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## Day 2: Debt Part 1

One of the reasons that it is important to maintain discipline in your budget is so you avoid spending more money than you should in a certain area. One of the dangers of overspending is that it can lead you to rely on borrowing money in order to pay for what you have. When you do this, you dig yourself deeper and deeper into debt. Being in debt is defined as “a state of being under obligation to pay or repay someone or something in return for something received.” It’s no secret that debt is something we should try to avoid. In light of this, the Bible provides wisdom as to how we should think about debt as Christians.

In the Bible, debt is not something that is explicitly forbidden. Although debt itself is not a sin, we are warned against it because of how it becomes a burden to us and causes significant amounts of stress and feelings of bondage. Proverbs 22:7 tells us that “just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender” (NLT). While you are in debt, you come under the authority of a person, a credit card company, or a different organization. Until you pay off your debt, you are pretty much a servant to these things.

However, God did not design us to live under the authority of others this way. Instead, He designed us to live under His authority alone! Therefore, when we are indebted to others, we cannot completely submit all that we are to God. In 1 Corinthians 7:23, Paul says that “God paid a high price for you, so don’t be enslaved by the world” (NLT). Because of the price that has already been paid for us, we should strive to avoid enslavement to the things of this world and seek to live under God’s authority alone.

While living under His authority, God desires that we experience the freedom that He has in store for us through Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that “it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1 NIV). We are also told that “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36 NIV). When we experience the freedom that is offered through Christ, we are able to experience more of the fullness of God in our lives.

**ACTION STEP:**

Answer the questions below:

Are you typically a saver or a spender?

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How did you develop that habit?

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## Day 3: Debt Part 2

Being in debt is a dangerous place to be, since it can place great restrictions on our financial freedom. If you're not totally sure what debt is and how it works, that's ok! Debt can be a bit confusing to understand, but it is important to learn about in order to try to avoid getting stuck in it.

Debt can be accumulated in a number of different ways. You accumulate debt when you borrow money that you eventually have to pay back. It can come from money owed on credit cards, bank loans, loans from relatives, and from wherever else you find yourself borrowing. (Quick tip: a debit card is a card that you use to pay for things from money that you already have. Using a credit card is like taking out miniature loans from the Credit card company that you have to pay back.) However, the money that you pay back on your loan is not going to be the exact amount of the loan, due to interest. The longer you wait to pay back your loans, the more money you will end up paying. Not only will you end up paying more money, but you will also be in bondage to your loaner until it is paid back in full! Here is a table that shows how interest works overtime when you borrow \$50 at 20% annual interest rate.

Initial Borrow	What you owe after one year	What you owe after 5 years	What you owe after 10 years	What you owe after 20 years
\$50	\$60	\$124.41	\$309.59	\$1916.88

We understand that debt is not completely avoidable. Although it may feel necessary and common to go into debt when buying a home or paying for college, we advise that you try to avoid this if you can! Although these debts may feel inevitable, you can jump start paying them off by following three steps: **anticipation, preparation, and execution.**

First, you can anticipate how much you are planning to spend for something. If you plan on buying a house, you can anticipate what you will owe based on the cost of the house you plan to buy. Similarly, you can anticipate how much you will have to pay for education based on how expensive the school is to attend.

Next, you can prepare accordingly in your budget to either save up for or pay off whatever debts you accumulate. In fact, if you have saved up enough, you will not need to borrow in the first place! Establish room in your budget to pay off your debts as quickly as possible so you won't be thrown off when the time comes.

Finally, after preparing your budget, be sure to follow through with your plans and execute them with precision. Getting to the point where you are debt-free may take time, discipline, and determination, but it will be well worth it in the end.

### **ACTION STEP**

Think about a big purchase that you may make at some point in your near future (car, clothes, etc.), and answer the question below.

What are some steps that you can take to ensure that you are getting the best deal for your money? What steps can be taken to plan for a big-ticket purchase without going into debt?

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## Day 4: Budget Building Part 1

So far, we have taken a look at a number of different things that are important to take into consideration when building your budget. You've learned about the importance of giving, saving, being disciplined with your budget, and avoiding debt. You are now going to take all of that knowledge and put it together to build your budget. Our budget building process is a six-step process, and we will be reviewing three of those steps today. Let's get started!

### Step 1: Know Your Monthly Income

One of the reasons that you have been keeping an earning and spending journal throughout this study is so that you can get a jump start on building your budget! Your monthly income is the total sum of all that you have earned over the course of a month (this is money that you can consistently count on, not including gifts). This money can come from jobs, allowances, or any other way to earn money. Once you have the total income from a month, it's time to move on to the next step.

### Step 2: Know Your Monthly Expenses

A second reason that you have been keeping your earning and spending journals is so you can become aware of where your money usually goes. The goal is to try to get an accurate understanding of how you spend every cent! When you track where your money is being spent, you can begin to see common trends.

### Step 3: Create Your Categories

Once you have an accurate idea of your income and your actual expenses, it's time to put your expenses into categories. Every dollar that you spend belongs in a category. Here is a list of potential spending categories (although you probably will not use all of them): Giving, Saving, Food, Transportation, Entertainment/Recreation, Clothing, Housing, Insurance, Debts, Medical, School, and Miscellaneous. What you put into each category is up to you! Put your spending into whatever categories make the most sense to you.

You are halfway to having built your budget. In the next lesson, we will look at the final three steps to building a sound budget. Keep it up! Remember, the effort you put into your budget now will help you find financial peace in your future.







# ***YOUR ESTIMATED BUDGET***

## **How to Complete the Estimated Budget**

### **1. Enter the weekly income and spending.**

From your weekly “Recording Your Income & Spending” worksheets, enter the weekly totals in the Estimated Budget worksheet below. You may have to guesstimate what your income and spending is for the upcoming weeks.

### **2. Add the weekly totals.**

Add the weekly totals in each category to determine your monthly totals.

### **3. Adjust your budget.**

Study the totals in each category. Adjust any of the totals that are not an average month. For example, you may have spent more for gifts than normal if it is Christmas season or if you celebrated a few friends’ birthdays this month.

### **4. Determine the surplus or deficit of your budget.**

Add all the totals from the spending categories. Then subtract this from your income to find out if you are spending more money than you are receiving.

If you find out that you are spending more than your income, you must adjust your budget until it balances. You must either increase income or reduce spending.

The best way to balance the budget is to review each category and ask yourself these two questions about each spending category:

- **Do I really need this?**
- **Can I buy this less expensively?**

Some decisions will be hard to make. It’s not easy to reduce spending, but the blessing and peace that comes with having a balanced budget is worth the struggle.



# YOUR ESTIMATED BUDGET

ESTIMATED BUDGET EXAMPLE																														
Description	Totals for First Week	Totals for Second Week	Totals for Third Week	Totals for Fourth Week	Totals for Remainder of the Month*	Totals for Month																								
Income	13.50	8.75	20.25	15.00		57.50																								
Giving	3.50	1.00	3.25	2.00		9.75																								
Savings	2.00	.90	2.10	2.25		7.25																								
Food	3.00	1.25	4.50	1.75		10.50																								
School/Lessons	0	0	0	0	0	0																								
Clothing	0	0	9.50	0		9.50																								
Grooming	2.50	0	1.25	0		3.75																								
Transportation	.50	0	.50	0		1.00																								
Sports	0	0	5.00	0		5.00																								
Entertainment	3.00	2.50	0	1.00		6.50																								
Gifts	0	0	3.25	0		3.25																								
Other:	0	0	0	0	0	0																								
Other:	0	0	0	0	0	0																								
<p>Determine the surplus or deficit of your budget:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"><b>Income</b></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">57.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><hr style="width: 100%;"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Substract Spending</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">56.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><hr style="width: 100%;"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Equals Surplus or Deficit</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">=</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><hr style="width: 100%;"/></td> </tr> </table>							<b>Income</b>	+		57.50				<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<b>Substract Spending</b>	-		56.50				<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<b>Equals Surplus or Deficit</b>	=		1.00				<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
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			<hr style="width: 100%;"/>																											
<b>Equals Surplus or Deficit</b>	=		1.00																											
			<hr style="width: 100%;"/>																											

\*For any days at the beginning or end of the month that don't complete a full week. Track those expenses in this column.



# YOUR ESTIMATED BUDGET

Follow the instructions and example from the prior pages to help you fill out your Estimated Budget.

ESTIMATED BUDGET						
Description	Totals for First Week	Totals for Second Week	Totals for Third Week	Totals for Fourth Week	Totals for Remainder of the Month*	Totals for Month
Income						
Giving						
Savings						
Food						
School/Lessons						
Clothing						
Grooming						
Transportation						
Sports						
Entertainment						
Gifts						
Other:						
Other:						

Determine the surplus or deficit of your budget:

<b>Income</b>	+	_____
<b>Substract Spending</b>	-	_____
<b>Equals Surplus or Deficit</b>	=	_____

\*For any days at the beginning or end of the month that don't complete a full week. Track those expenses in this column.

## Day 5: Budget Building Part 2

Today is the day! It is now time to finish learning the steps of putting together your budget. Let's get started!

### Step 4: Compare Income and Expenses

Once you have created your categories, begin to fill in each category with the expenses that you anticipate having for that month, based on your previous spending trends. When you've finished your budget, your income minus your expenses should equal \$0. If it doesn't, then keep adjusting your budget until it does. If you realize that you are going to overspend in one category (Food, for example), you can move money from another category (like Entertainment/Recreation) to cover the expenses.

### Step 5: Implement the Budget

Your budget should be your visual guide to how you spend your money, and where you have the freedom to spend. Everyone likes to keep track of their budget in different ways – some use apps, some use spreadsheets, and some even use envelopes! Find a system that works for you and stick with it. No matter what system you choose, you should be able to easily set it up. You've already done all the work of deciding how much money goes into each category.

### Step 6: Compare and Adjust

The final step of creating your budget is to compare your budget from month to month. Now that you have your budget and are following a spending plan, you will be able to see categories where you tend to overspend as well as where you have money left over at the end of the month. Keep revisiting your budget and adjust as you need to stay on target for meeting your goals. Congrats! You've just learned the six steps to building a healthy budget. If you ever find yourself feeling discouraged or frustrated, don't worry – we've all been there! You may make mistakes along the way, but it's important to adjust and keep going. Don't give up!

### ACTION STEP:

Budget Building Exercise #2 (Do Steps 4-6 from this lesson by working more on your Estimated Budget worksheets above or the forms you downloaded. [The Envelope Method](#) information below will help you begin to implement your budget responsibly.)





# ENVELOPE METHOD

The simplest and most effective budget for most young people to use is the envelope system. This worksheet will teach you how to set one up. If you don't want to do this for your entire budget, maybe select one or two categories (the ones where you typically overspend) and try this method.

## SETTING UP YOUR ENVELOPE SYSTEM

**1. Use one envelope for each spending category.**

**2. Label each envelope by spending category.**

One would be labeled "giving," another "recreation," and so on.

**3. Label each envelope with the amount you have budgeted for each category.**

For example, if you have budgeted \$10 a month for recreation, write \$10 on the outside of the envelope.

## HOW TO USE THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM

**1. When you receive income, divide the income by placing it in the various envelopes according to the amount you have budgeted for each category.**

For instance, you would place \$10 in the envelope labeled "recreation."

**2. If you do not receive enough income to fully fund each envelope, put a note in each envelope to remind yourself that it is not fully funded.**

For example, if you only place \$5 in the recreation envelope, put a note in the envelope reading, "I need \$5 more in this account this month."

**3. Do not spend more than you have in any envelope.**

For example, if you only have \$2 left in the recreation envelope, you can't spend \$8 for a recreational activity until more money is deposited into the envelope!

**4. At the end of each month:**

If there is money left in any envelope, you are free to give it to the Lord, deposit it into your savings account, spend it, or save it for next month.

 CROWN

# YOURLIFE

## Week 4: Financial Integrity



## Week 4: Financial Integrity

### Video

1. What is something that you have been responsible for recently?

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2. What are some decisions in your life that you think you will need to seek counsel and advice?

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3. What does it mean for you to be honest with your finances?

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### Day 1: Financial Responsibility

Having an established budget is an important step to take toward stewarding your resources well. However, your journey as a good steward does not end once you have set your budget. While having a budget is very important, there are other financial practices that are equally as important. While budgeting is primarily concerned with knowing where your money comes from and where it is going, these other practices are concerned with the decisions you make about how you want to handle your money. Throughout the rest of this section, we will take a closer look at the idea of financial responsibility.

What are some things that you have been responsible for in your life? Maybe you were responsible for cleaning your room or perhaps you had a responsibility to complete a certain school project in a specific time frame. Regardless of what your responsibility was, you had a job to do and you (hopefully) did it. However, there is more to doing a job than just getting it done. In

fact, the way that you do the job is actually more important than just getting the job done.

Here's an example of how this is true: when you clean your room, you can do one of two things. One way you can clean your room is to shove everything under your bed or into your closets, so that your room looks clean at first glance. However, as you probably realize, just because your room looks clean in this situation doesn't mean that it actually is. A second way you clean your room is to take time to organize things and put them away where they actually belong. This way, your room is clean both at first glance and at further inspection! In both scenarios, the room gets clean. However, although the second way may have taken longer, it is clearly a better way to clean your room. The second cleaning of the room was much more responsible than the first.

The same is actually true when it comes to handling your money. You will often have opportunities to make choices with your money when there are more responsible choices to make than others. Unfortunately, the more responsible decision is not always the clearest option. One important financial practice is pursuing wisdom when handling our money. As Proverbs 10:23 teaches us, "Doing wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible" (NLT). When you pursue wisdom in your decision making, you create a habit of making wise choices throughout your life. When you pursue wisdom, you are being financially responsible in your decision making!

### **ACTION STEP:**

Review your budget and answer the question below.

Are you on track with what you set for yourself? Why or why not?

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### **FACILITATOR'S NOTE:**

Check in the Appendix for the "[Your Financial Goals](#)" form. This could be a helpful supplement to this lesson. You may also [download the form here](#).

## Day 2: Counsel Part 1

The main way you can pursue wisdom with your finances is through the practice of seeking counsel for financial decisions. There are many places that you can go to for counsel about decisions. In this lesson, we will take a closer look at three of those places: The Bible, godly people, and the Lord.

The first potential place to look when seeking advice for financial decisions is the Bible. Remember, there are thousands of verses that talk about handling money, and there are numerous verses with other kinds of advice. In Psalm 119:24, David writes telling the Lord that “Your laws please me, they give me wise advice” (NLT). The Bible is full of wisdom, and it is worth pursuing for insight into whatever decision you may be making.

Another place you could go when you are seeking counsel for a decision is to some godly people that you may know. There may be a number of godly people in your life that you can go to for counsel. One set of godly people that you could go to for advice may be your parents. Solomon writes some wisdom about parents in proverbs when he says “When you walk, their counsel will lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up, they will advise you” (Proverbs 6:22 NLT). Another group of people that you could approach for advice are those who have specific experience concerning the decision you are making. For example, if you are wanting to buy a certain car, get the advice of a mechanic (ideally a Christian one!) for their opinion. Finally, seek to find counsel from the godly people who have your best interests in heart. The people who want the best for you will be eager to give you good advice to help you!

When making an important decision (financial or not), it is very wise to spend time with the Lord when seeking counsel. Spend some time in prayer as you are approaching a big decision. After all, He is the Wonderful Counselor. When we know the desires that God has for our lives, we can entrust Him more fully with everything that we have.

Finally, while it is important to seek good counsel, it is equally as important to avoid bad counsel. In the Bible, we are instructed to avoid bad counsel at all costs: “Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble” (Proverbs 13:20 NLT). Make sure that you are walking with the wise, so that you will not fall into the trap that foolishness brings!



## Day 3: Counsel Part 2

While there are many good places to go when you are seeking counsel, it is still a practice that is sometimes hard to do. It can sometimes be uncomfortable to ask for counsel when you are not sure whether you actually need it. Because of these, there are three things required of you when you ask for counsel: **vulnerability**, **humility**, and **flexibility**.

What is counsel? In order to explain it, let's take a look at an example. When you are about to make a big purchase, counsel is input and insight that you receive from someone else to aid you in the decision-making process. Typically, you would seek out counsel for bigger purchases (like a car, clothes, etc.) and not for smaller purchases (like what you should buy at the grocery store). This is where **vulnerability** comes into play. It is important to realize that you need some guidance and counsel on certain purchases, and you must be vulnerable to admit that you need some help.

One of the reasons that asking for counsel is so difficult is because our own pride can get in the way. Because of this, seeking counsel requires **humility** from us. It is easy to think that your ways and reasonings are the best and that you do not need help from anyone else. We let pride get in the way because we may view seeking counsel as a sign of weakness. This is not true! Asking for counsel is a very wise thing to do, and it is not a sign of weakness. For these reasons, it is important to humble yourself and ask for help when you need it.

A second reason that asking for counsel can be difficult is because of our own stubbornness. Sometimes, we are so confident with what decisions we are planning to make that we don't want to ask for advice because we don't want someone to disagree with us. We often do not want to hear that we should not purchase something if we have already decided to purchase it. In these situations, it is important to have **flexibility** when it comes to your decisions. When you are flexible and willing to listen to advice, you are much better equipped to make the best decisions!

One final reminder about asking for counsel is that when you ask for it, you are not asking someone to make a decision for you. You are simply asking for their opinion and what their insight is. Once you receive counsel, it is up to you to put it all together and come up with the final decision. At times, "having all the facts" is not enough, and you need help from others! Don't be afraid to seek counsel when you need it. In the next lesson, we will explore where to go when you are seeking counsel.





## Day 4: Honesty Part 1

Sometimes, it pays to be dishonest. For example, a cashier could give you more change back than you should actually be getting, or maybe your paycheck had \$50 more than what you know is right. In both of these situations, you benefit financially from someone else’s mistake. However, just because it pays to be dishonest, that doesn’t mean being dishonest is the right thing to do. In fact, being dishonest in these situations and taking the undeserved money is not at all what God desires for you. Instead, God desires honesty and truth from His followers in all of their transactions.

God desires that we pursue truth in everything that we do. This is important—our God is a God of truth. In John 14:6, Jesus affirms this when He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (NLT). God is not a God of deceit and lies, and He does not want His people to be either. While society may say it’s ok to make a quick profit off of someone else’s mistake, that is not what Scripture tells us. God desires that you are truthful and honest in your financial transactions, even if it means you have to correct someone else’s mistake and lose out on some money! Here is a chart that explains more about how Scripture and society have different opinions on the topic of honesty:

Issue	Society	Scripture
Standard of honesty:	Relative	Absolute
God’s concern about honesty:	There is no God	He demands honesty
The decision to be honest or dishonest is based upon:	Only the facts that can be seen	Faith in the invisible living God
Question usually asked when deciding whether to be honest:	Will I get away with it?	Will it please God?

If you want a closer look at how much God hates dishonesty, take a look at the story of Ana-

anias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. In this story, Ananias and Sapphira lie about their finances when they claim that they gave more money than they actually did. As a result of their dishonesty, they both die. This punishment may seem very extreme, but it serves as an example of how much God despises dishonesty. In the next lesson, we will take a closer look at why God hates dishonesty so much. While the result of dishonesty may not be as extreme for you as it was for Ananias and Sapphira, it is important to realize that dishonesty can have a very negative influence on your life!

**ACTION STEP:**

The first step to take in the direction of honesty is to confess dishonesty. Take a moment to confess any dishonesty that you remember to the Lord.

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## Day 5: Honesty Part 2

Have you ever wondered why honesty is so important to God? God desires honesty from His followers more than just because it is the right thing to do. In this lesson, we will take a closer look at four reasons why it is important to be honest as Christians.

**The first reason that honesty matters so much is that we cannot practice dishonesty and love God.** In John 14:15, Jesus says “If you love me, obey my commandments” (NLT). When you choose to pursue honesty, you are showing the love that you have for Christ. By showing your love for Christ through financial honesty, you are placing your trust in Him to meet your financial needs. However, when you are dishonest financially, you are not placing your complete trust in God to truly provide for you as He has promised. With every honest decision you make, you are both proclaiming your love for Christ and expressing your trust in Him to provide for your future.

**The second reason that honesty matters so much is that we cannot practice dishonesty and love our neighbor well.** The Lord demands honesty in our lives because dishonesty breaks the second commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31 NLT). This love that we are supposed to have for others is the kind of love that is talked about in Romans 13:10: “Love does no wrong to others” (NLT). Many people who consider themselves to be completely honest actually steal every day. They may come in late to work or leave early, or perhaps something else similar to this. However, even though it may be a small thing, there are real people who may suffer as a result of that dishonesty. We can show our love for others through our honesty, because dishonesty will always hurt someone.

**A third reason that honesty matters is because honesty can give your faith credibility.** When we are honest, we are demonstrating the reality of Jesus Christ in our life to those around us. Remember, our actions speak louder than our words. In Philippians 2:15, we are told to “live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people” (NLT). You can have a positive influence on others by handling your finances with honesty. Sometimes, being honest will not be the easiest, but it will allow you to demonstrate to others your personal faith in Jesus Christ.

**Finally, honesty matters because even small acts of dishonesty can have a significant impact.** In Luke 16:10, Jesus says that “whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much” (NIV).







 CROWN

# YOURLIFE

## Week 5: Your Financial Future



## Week 5: Your Financial Future

### Video

1. What does having a positive attitude about your finances look like to you?

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2. What do you think it means to be content with what the Lord has given you? Are you?

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3. What does it mean for you to be a living representation of Christ to those around you?

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### Day 1: Your Future Part 1

The establishment of good financial practices in your life now will benefit you for the rest of your lives. The principles and strategies that you have learned thus far are timeless techniques that are used by both young and old alike. However, it is possible to know good financial practices and still fail to handle your finances well. When this happens, it is sometimes due to a lack of vision for the future. When you lose sight of where you are going, it is easy to forget the importance of the decisions that you make in the here and now that could jeopardize your future. In this lesson, we are going to take a look at how to live well in the present while also preparing for your future.

The best way to prepare for your future while also living well in the present is to remember the purpose of why you do what you do. Specifically, you must remember the purpose of why you handle your finances the way that you do. When you do this, you may find yourself asking the question, "Am I using my money to fulfill my own desires or to fulfill God's purpose for my



life?” It is tempting to trust ourselves and our own ideas more than we trust God. However, as Proverbs 19:21 informs us, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails” (NIV). When you try to handle money according to your own purposes, money can quickly become the motivation for everything that you do. On the other hand, when you pursue God’s purposes for your finances, you become more open to the ways that He desires to work in your life.

The Lord’s purpose for your life is different than His purposes for others. Therefore, the purpose of how you handle your finances may look different than someone else’s. Although you may not really know the Lord’s purposes for you yet, you can base your decisions on some key foundational truths about handling your finances. One foundational purpose of financial stewardship is this: While you’re on earth, use your money to advance His kingdom and not to build your own. His Kingdom is eternal, while yours is temporary. As you progress throughout your life, you can strive to make decisions that promote the goodness of His kingdom. In the next lesson, we will be taking a further look at what it means to steward our finances with a purpose.

### **ACTION STEP**

Time to check in with your budget! Answer the question below:

Have you been keeping track with the budget that you made for yourself?

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## Day 2: Your Future Part 2

It is not wrong to desire enough money to fulfill God’s purpose for us. However, there are some things to consider (and even avoid) when thinking about how you should handle your money as a Christian. In this lesson, we are going to look at three different mindsets as to how you should handle your money as a Christian: **Poverty**, **Prosperity**, and **Stewardship**. Here is a brief chart explaining the differences between the three:

	Poverty	Prosperity	Stewardship
<b>Possessions are</b>	Evil	A right	A responsibility
<b>I work to</b>	Meet only basic needs	Become rich	Serve Christ
<b>Godly people are</b>	Poor	Wealthy	Faithful
<b>Ungodly people are</b>	Wealthy	Poor	Unfaithful
<b>I give</b>	Because I must	To get	Because I love God
<b>My spending is</b>	Without gratitude to God	Carefree and consumptive	Prayerful and responsible

### FACILITATORS NOTE



Access a separate “Money Mindsets” worksheet for in person meetings here:

<https://www.crown.org/yourlife/> or in the [Appendix](#) of this resource.

Having a mindset that Christians must live in **poverty** is believing that you must be poor

because a wealthy person cannot have a close relationship with Christ. Due to the value that the world puts in material success, many Christians have concluded that they should completely avoid material things and live poor. However, this is not necessarily what the Bible tells us. While poverty is a reality in Scripture, it is certainly not a promise. Some Christians believe that it is necessary to give up things and be self-sacrificial in order to earn God's acceptance. God's acceptance is not based on how much we give up for Him—His acceptance will always remain the same! Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:3 that "If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing" (NLT). The way that you care for and love others is much more important than whether or not you've given things up for the Lord!

Having the mindset that Christians deserve **prosperity** is the belief that any Christian walking by faith will always be rich. With this mindset, people believe that the stronger your faith is, the more the Lord will bless you. Also, with this mindset comes the idea that if the Lord isn't blessing you, you must not have enough faith or perhaps you did something wrong. People with this belief tend to give with the expectation that, based on their actions, they will receive something in return. However, this is not what God teaches us, and it is not how we should think about our finances.

As we have looked at throughout much of this study, the best way to handle our finances in accordance with God's purpose is through **stewardship**. We must trust God to use us to accomplish His purposes for both our finances and our life. When we do this, we can live more freely in the desires that He has for us.

### **ACTION STEP**

A personal financial mission statement is a great way to clarify why you do what you do. Then, as opportunities arise to spend your time, money, energy, or other resources, you have a filter. If it fits within your mission, it is worth spending your resources. If not, then you will know not to waste your time or money on something that does not align with God's purpose for you. Read and respond below.

Take some time to think, and then write down a personal mission statement for yourself!

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## Day 3: Contentment Part 1

Finding contentment (satisfaction) often feels like one of the great mysteries of financial stewardship as a Christian. One reason that it feels like a mystery is that few ever feel truly content when it comes to their finances. However, contrary to popular opinion, contentment is not actually something you find. Instead, contentment is an attitude.

Being content does not simply mean that you are satisfied with your current circumstances. Being content means that you are trusting God's plan for you and believing that the peace that God has to offer is greater than any stresses the world has to offer. However, being content does not mean that you won't ever have any financial stress. You will experience stress in a number of different areas throughout your life, and it won't always be a bad thing! When it comes to money, though, the majority of us will experience stress at some point or another, and it is not a good feeling! In fact, about 85% of Americans say they are "sometimes stressed" with money, while 39% say they are "constantly stressed" about their finances.

It is very tempting to try to find financial contentment by just trying to have more money. However, no amount of money will ever bring true satisfaction. Read the wisdom in Hebrews 13:5: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you'" (NIV). Any resources that you attain on earth will eventually fade away, but the love that God has for you will not. We hope that you find peace knowing that the Creator of the world has authority over everything, including your finances. There is no financial stress that is greater than the peace that comes from knowing that you are loved by Christ.

Someone once said, "whatever we worry about the most is what we trust God with the least." If you find yourself constantly worried or stressed about your financial situation, surrender it all to the Lord! It is only through God that you will be able to find true contentment.

### **ACTION STEP**

Answer the question below.

Do you often find yourself stressed about your finances?

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## Day 4: Contentment Part 2

Discontentment arises when you do not feel satisfied with your current circumstances. One of the primary negative side effects of discontentment is that you're unable to experience true peace by living with what God has provided to you. Discontentment leaves you feeling restless with a continuous desire for more and more. In addition, feelings of discontentment can lead you to make poor financial decisions. You are tempted to buy with the mindset that you need more, better, and nicer things than you already have. When you have this mindset, you often compare the things that you already have to the things that you could have. The things that you already have will rarely feel like enough when you do this.

However, there is no amount of money or other things that can ever bring you real satisfaction. "Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!" (Ecclesiastes 5:10 NLT). It's not necessarily wrong to desire nice things, but you must always be aware that there is no true satisfaction outside of what God has to offer. Here are four things you strive to do to remain content with what you have:

### 1. Keep your mind on eternity

Our time on earth is relatively tiny in the scope of eternity! Don't let the "here and now" make you forget that there is eternity waiting.

### 2. Avoid playing the comparison game

Don't waste your time worrying that you're not as rich or as beautiful/handsome or as ANYTHING as someone else. Comparing ourselves to others robs us of joy and contentment, and it often prompts us to spend unwisely. Remember that all that counts for eternity is your relationship with the Lord!

### 3. Remember that apart from Christ, wealth is meaningless

Nothing can replace the value of our relationship with the Lord. "Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks." (1 Timothy 4:4 NLT)

### 4. Beware of worldly temptation

You will see numerous advertisements across the media that will want you to believe that your life will be much better with their product. When this happens, remember that the only true fulfillment you will ever receive comes from Christ and not from what the world has to offer!

When you are able to remain content with the things that you have, you will be better attuned to receive the peace that God offers you. Take a moment to think about the many ways that God has blessed you and give Him thanks for what He has done.

### **ACTION STEP**

In an effort to sustain an attitude of contentment, one helpful step to take is to transfer the ownership of your resources to God. Download the [Transfer of Ownership Form](#) or fill it out below. Keep it as a reminder that God is the owner of all that you have!



# TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

## EXAMPLE

Made the 4th day of October  
From: Jane Doe To: The Lord

I hereby transfer to the Lord the ownership of the following possessions:

<u>Bicycle</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Clothes, including my favorite shirt</u>	<u>All shoes</u>
<u>Video games</u>	<u>Hover board</u>
<u>Money</u>	<u>Car</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Witnesses who hold me (us) accountable  
in the recognition of the Lord's ownership:

Mom/Dad signature  
Grandma signature

Stewards of the possessions above:

Jane Doe signature  
 

*This instrument is not a binding legal document and cannot be used to transfer property.*

# TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP



Made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

To: The Lord

I hereby transfer to the Lord the ownership of the following possessions:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Witnesses who hold me (us) accountable  
in the recognition of the Lord's ownership:

Stewards of the possessions above:

_____	_____
_____	_____

*This instrument is not a binding legal document and cannot be used to transfer property.*

## Day 5: Setting an Example

Over the course of the past few weeks, you've learned a lot about what it means to steward your money as a Christian. Many of the principles and strategies that you have learned will serve as strong foundations for any future financial decisions you will make. Now that you have knowledge of these things, what you choose to do next is very important!

Due to the foundation that you now have, you have an incredible opportunity to set a good example for those around you. In 1 Timothy 4:12, we are told to "be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity" (NLT). As a believer in Christ, the words that you say carry significant weight and can have a big impact on those around you. The way you speak about things is often used as a measuring stick by others to evaluate their own lives. Because of this, it is important that you are aware of the things you say and do!

You can use your words to set a positive example for how you handle your money. Here are some questions to consider as you discuss handling money: Do you talk about giving with an attitude of excitement or an attitude of groaning? Do you often talk about the money you desire to make and how you'll spend it? Or do you give thanks to God for the many ways that he has blessed you in the present? The way that you choose to speak about money is a testament of your gratitude for what God has done for you. In Ephesians 4:29, you are told to "let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them" (NLT). Every time you speak, you have the opportunity to either build up or to destroy. Strive to speak life and light in order to set a good example to those around you!

Another, arguably more important, way you can set a positive example for those around you is through your actions. People may not always believe what you say, but they can't argue with your actions. Because this is true, you must practice what you preach! If you talk about the importance of being wise with money, and then don't steward it well, then people are not going to trust what you are saying. Too many people have failed to live what they say they believe, proving to a skeptical world that a godly talk doesn't mean a godly walk. When you say one thing but do another, people aren't only judging you—they are judging God as well. It is important that you are aware of how you represent God to the world.

That's it! Congrats on reaching the end of the Financial Stewardship unit. We hope that you are able to take the lessons and principles that you have learned and use them for the rest of your life!

**ACTION STEP**

Answer the question below and be sure to read the Conclusion page.

Make a list of three things that you are going to particularly remember about this study?

1.

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2.

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3.

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# The Wrap Up Conclusion

We sincerely hope you enjoyed this financial stewardship Unit of **YourLife: Money Management for Teens** and pray these lessons have penetrated your heart and inspired you toward a journey of lifelong stewardship with the money God entrusts to you.

As a final action step, we encourage you to read *The Parable of the Bags of Gold* (also known as *The Parable of the Talents*) in Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV).

## The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability.

Then he went on his journey.

16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.

17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.

18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five.

‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold.

See, I have gained five more.’

21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of many things.

Come and share your master’s happiness!’

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said,  
'you entrusted me with two bags of gold;  
see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!  
You have been faithful with a few things;  
I will put you in charge of many things.  
Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said,  
'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown  
and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground.  
See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest  
where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers,  
so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.

29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance.  
Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where  
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This may seem like harsh treatment... the servant was only doing what he felt was best! He was being cautious, right? But **God calls us into deeper commitment; He calls us to do something with everything that He gives to us, including money, whether a little or a lot.**

But it doesn't stop there! What about the gifts, skills, and talents He gives to each of us? That's what we'll cover in the next unit of **YourLife**. We look forward to seeing you there.



# **APPENDIX**

On the following pages, you will find these forms:

- 1. Your Financial Statement**
- 2. Your Financial Goals**
- 3. Money Mindsets Worksheet**

They are supplemental to the study, but could serve as helpful additions. With all our forms, we encourage students to seek the help and counsel of their parents or guardians.

Additional resources such as daily social media posts, weekly text prompts and more, may be found at:

<https://www.crown.org/yourlife>





# YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A financial statement is used to help a person get a picture of his or her current financial situation. It's not necessary to be exact to the penny; rather, estimate the value of each asset (what you own) and the amount of each liability (what you owe). A sample of a financial statement is below.

We recommend that you update [your financial statement](#) once each year to help you keep up with your progress; January is a good time to do so.

## YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

### ASSETS (what you own)

DATE: January 2021

Cash and checking account	50.00
Savings	625.00
Stocks and bonds	0
Coins	50.00
Car	0
Furniture/Electronics	100.00
Jewelry	25.00
Other personal items	0
Other assets	0

**TOTAL ASSETS:** 850

### LIABILITIES (what you owe)

Current bills	15.00
Credit card debt	0
Car loan	0
Personal debts to relatives	50.00
Educational loans	0
Bank loans	0
Other debts	0

**TOTAL LIABILITIES:** 65

**NET WORTH** 785  
(Total Assets minus Total Liabilities)

## YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### ASSETS (what you own)

DATE:

Cash and checking account

Savings

Stocks and bonds

Coins

Car

Furniture/Electronics

Jewelry

Other personal items

Other assets

**TOTAL ASSETS:**

### LIABILITIES (what you owe)

Current bills

Credit card debt

Car loan

Personal debts to relatives

Educational loans

Bank loans

Other debts

**TOTAL LIABILITIES:**

### NET WORTH

(Total Assets minus Total Liabilities)

This worksheet will help you think through your long and short term financial goals. Be sure to review this with your parents and/or a godly counselor.

FINANCIAL GOALS EXAMPLE			
<b>Income Goals:</b> The amount of income I would like to earn this year \$ <u>2,000</u>			
<b>Giving Goals:</b> I would like to give <u>10</u> % of my income to <u>my church</u>			
<b>Other Giving Goals:</b> <u>Give to missionary, Mr. Harris</u>			
<b>Savings and Investment Goals:</b> I would like to save <u>20</u> % of my income.			
<b>Other Saving Goals:</b> <u>Save for car, surfboard, and college</u>			
<b>I would like to make the following investments:</b> _____			
<b>Educational Goals:</b> I would like to fund the following education.			
School: <u>Help toward college</u>			
<b>Major Purchase Goods:</b> I would like to make the following major purchase(s) (car, etc.)			
Item			Amount
<u>Car</u>			<u>\$3,500</u>
_____			_____
_____			_____
<b>Other Financial Goals:</b> _____			
_____			
_____			
<b>Goals For This Year:</b>			
<b>I believe the Lord wants me to achieve the following goals this year:</b>			
Priority	Financial Goals	My Part	God's Part
1	<u>Save 20%</u>	<u>Spend wisely</u>	<u>Help my spending</u>
2	<u>Earn \$2,000</u>	<u>Look for job</u>	<u>Provide job</u>
3	_____	_____	_____

## FINANCIAL GOALS

**Income Goals:** The amount of income I would like to earn this year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Giving Goals:** I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ % of my income to \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Giving Goals:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Savings and Investment Goals:** I would like to save \_\_\_\_\_ % of my income.

**Other Saving Goals:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to make the following investments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Goals:** I would like to fund the following education.

School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Purchase Goods:** I would like to make the following major purchase(s) (car, etc.)

Item	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Other Financial Goals:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Goals For This Year:

**I believe the Lord wants me to achieve the following goals this year:**

Priority	Financial Goals	My Part	God's Part
1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____

There are three different mindsets as to how you could approach your money as a Christian: **Poverty**, **Prosperity**, and **Stewardship**. Here is a brief chart explaining the differences between the three: (or you may [download it here](#))

	POVERTY	PROSPERITY	STEWARDSHIP
Possessions are	Evil	A right	A responsibility
I work to	Meet only basic needs	Become rich	Serve Christ
Godly people are	Poor	Wealthy	Faithful
Ungodly people are	Wealthy	Poor	Unfaithful
I give	Because I must	To get	Because I love God
My spending is	Without gratitude to God	Carefree and consumptive	Prayerful and responsible

## MINDSETS EXPLAINED

Having a mindset that Christians must live in **poverty** is believing that you must be poor because a wealthy person cannot have a close relationship with Christ. Due to the value that the world puts in material success, many Christians have concluded that they should completely avoid material things and live poor.

Having the mindset that Christians **serve prosperity** is the belief that any Christian walking by faith will always be rich. With this mindset, people believe that the stronger your faith is, the more the Lord will bless you. Also, with this mindset comes the idea that if the Lord isn't blessing you, you must not have enough faith or perhaps you did something wrong.

The third way to approach our finances in accordance with God's purpose is through **stewardship**. This requires us to trust God to use us to accomplish His purposes for both our finances and our life. When we do this, we can live more freely in the design He has for our life.





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